10/6

A

PLAN

FOR RECRUITING THE

BRITISH ARMY,

DEDICATED

To the OFFICERS of that SERVICE,

In which, under the Supposition of an Act of Parliament obtained for that Purpose, the ALTERNATIVE is offered to each COUNTY of GREAT BRITAIN, either to supply the Army with a proportional Number of Recruits BY BALLOT, or to ASSESS each Parish, at a proportional Rate, to institute an ASSOCIATION FUND, which is to increase so in the Time of Peace, as to pay Bounties to a sufficient Number of Volunteers in the most pressing Exigency of War.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

THOUGHTS

UPON THE PRESENT

METHOD of IMPRESS for the SEA SERVICE,

CALCULATED

To render THAT METHOD of MANNING the NAVY more expeditious, and more consistent with the INTEREST of the MERCHANT SERVICE of GREAT BRITAIN.

WITH

A POSTSCRIPT,

POINTING OUT

NEW PLANS of FINANCE to induce the LANDED and MONIED INTEREST of GREAT BRITAIN to adopt the above Scheme for Recruiting the British Army.

LONDON:

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TO THE

OFFICERS

OF THE

BRITISH ARMY.

GENTLEMEN,

THE author of the following ſheets begs leave to ſubmit them to your candid conſideration, as containing a plan calculated to recruit the old eſtabliſhment of the army effectually, as long as the conſtitution of Great Britain remains ſuch as it is at preſent. To the parent country of ſo extenſive an empire as the Britiſh, having poſſeſſions in every part of the

globe, many external circumſtances muſt happen in the courſe of human affairs, which, in a certain degree, muſt make her alter her internal conſtitution, ſo as to ſecure thoſe diſtant poſſeſſions. The queſtion, therefore, in regard to theſe internal alterations turns upon this nice pivot, will they, when they take place, be of more advantage than diſadvantage to her; or, in other words, is a ſmall internal inconvenience to be born, for the ſake of a great external bleſſing, which enables hundreds of families to live at home, in the parent ſtate, in eaſe and affluence? When we conſider, then, the preſent ſtate of affairs in America and the Weſt Indies, the neceſſity of adopting the following plan will be fully juſtified, when tried by the above ſtandard. In it, it is propoſed, that under the authority of an act of parliament, the alternative ſhould be offered to each county of Great Britain, either to ſupply the army with a proportional number of recruits by ballot, or to aſſeſs each pariſh at a proportional

rate

rate to inſtitute an aſſociation fund, which is to increaſe ſo in the time of peace, as to pay bounties to a ſufficient number of volunteers in the moſt preſſing exigency of war. The latter method in miniature is adopted in many pariſhes of this kingdom, in obtaining ſubſtitutes for the militia, where either the whole pariſh contribute to the ſtock purſe, or any inferior number agree to aſſiſt one another, in caſe the chances of the ballot fall upon them.

Thus, there are but two ways in which the individuals of any country can pay the tribute of military ſervice due to the government they are under, viz. either by their own perſonal ſervice, or by paying an able ſubſtitute. Whatever arguments, therefore, are applicable to individuals in regard to this point, are ſtill ſtronger when applied to collective bodies of men. The following plan can never, therefore, be objected to by the inhabitants of any county, as fundamentally

mentally inconsistent with the constitution of this country, when the above alternative is offered by government to them, the choice or preference in an act of their own will.

A PLAN

A

PLAN

FOR RECRUITING THE

BRITISH ARMY, &c.

IT was a maxim obſerved by the Romans in their conqueſts, that they adopted every improvement in the art of war, wherein they thought themſelves excelled by their enemy. This circumſtance raiſed that nation to a greater pitch of greatneſs than any other in ancient hiſtory. Far from adhering obſtinately, like other nations, to the ſyſtem of war they were taught by their forefathers, they prudently varied it according to the nature of the reſiſtance they met with,

and in their progreſſive conqueſt of the world, rolled on like a ball of ſnow gathering ſtrength from every nation they left behind.

When we ſee that Rome, even the former miſtreſs of the world, never bluſhed to own herſelf capable of being taught, ought not ſo illuſtrious an example to teach Great Britain, that ſhe may confeſs herſelf ſtill under the corrective rod of experience? As the French have of late adopted many improvements from the Britiſh navy, it becomes us therefore to examine what improvements we can glean from them. The moſt important that preſents itſelf to our conſideration is one introduced into France by Lewis the fourteenth, who obliged each pariſh of his kingdom, to afford a number of recruits for the army, according to its number of inhabitants fit to carry arms. Thus, in France the military exigency of the ſtate is immediately ſupplied, and the demand of recruits for the army is never felt

felt as a grievance, ſince it is ſo equally divided among ſo many pariſhes. In Great Britain were they to adopt this plan, it would greatly ſtrengthen the executive hands of government, and enable it to anticipate many evils, that may happen to this country upon the commencement of a war; ſince the conſtitution of this country is ſuch, that it empowers naval officers to man their ſhips immediately by impreſſing men, it is certainly a ridiculous circumſtance, that the army is not put upon as advantageous a footing. It is only from the joint co-operation of their powers, that either our own ſecurity at home can be preſerved, our enemies foreign ſettlements attacked to advantage, or our own defended when invaded.

It has been often agitated as a point of ſpeculation, whether or not the Britiſh army would be better ſupplied with recruits, by obliging each pariſh to turn out a proportional quota of men, than by the preſent mode of beating up. In my opinion

opinion it admits of no doubt, that the firſt mentioned method is preferable to the latter, and will be productive of more general good to the Britiſh ſervice. The difficulty of contriving an effectual plan for recruiting the army, conſiſts in the following circumſtance. That it ſhould be calculated ſo as to fix the men as volunteers in the ſervice, and not drive them like brutes upon compulſion. A certain degree of compulſion is abſolutely neceſſary to ſecure a certain return of men to the ſecretary at war, but it ſhould be of ſuch a nature, as to fall upon public bodies of men, not upon individuals. The following plan ſeems to hit the proper mean between the two extremes. Let an act of parliament be paſſed to oblige each county, to ſupply the army with a number of recruits proportional to its number of inhabitants fit to carry arms. Though the meaſure at firſt ſight ſeems to be compulſatory, and is ſo in the dead letter of the law. However, the following propoſal removes every diſagreeable idea

idea of this nature, by pointing out a growing fund, that will accumulate ſo in the time of peace, as to pay adequate bounties to any number of volunteers in the moſt preſſing exigency of war.

Viz. That the lord lieutenant, ſheriff and grand jury of each county, ſhould be empowered by act of parliament to aſſeſs each pariſh, for the purpoſe of paying bounties to volunteers, who offer their ſervices for the county. The church wardens of each pariſh ſhould be obliged to deliver in upon oath to the juſtices of the quarter ſeſſions, a liſt of the number of inhabitants fit to carry arms. Thus, no complaint or grievance could ariſe in regard to the aſſeſſment, ſince the ratio of it muſt be fixed according to the abovementioned liſt delivered in at the quarter ſeſſions.

C adly.

2dly. That twice in each quarter there ſhould be a collection by brief in each church, and from houſe to houſe; all the money ſo collected and by the above way of aſſeſſment, ſhould go into an aſſociation ſtock purſe in each county. This to become a growing fund for the purpoſe of paying bounties to thoſe men who offer themſelves as volunteers. One or two years experience would ſoon enable any eminent calculator, to fix the general ſum to be raiſed by each county. The calculation ſhould be ſuch as to be above the par in the time of peace, that in the time of war there might be an accumulated proviſion adequate to the public demand. The lord lieutenant, ſheriff and grand jury of each county ſhould be truſtees *pro tempore*, to ſuperintend the management of this fund, and ſee that no embezzlement takes place.

3dly. If ſuch a ſcheme as the one here propoſed for recruiting the army were to take place, it would be abſolutely neceſſary, that government

ment ſhould appropriate all the money ſpent at preſent in the recruiting ſervice, for the benefit of the accumulating fund, during the continuance of this conteſt with America. Without this temporary aſſiſtance, the aſſeſſment or rate upon the pariſhes of each county would be too great, and perhaps only adequate to the purpoſe of paying bounties to the volunteers. But more is required, it is not only neceſſary that the rate ſhould be ſufficient to do that, but likewiſe there ſhould be an overplus, which always increaſing in the time of peace, would reduce the rate upon the different pariſhes in the time of war. It would alſo be a conſiderable aſſiſtance to the accumulating fund, if all county fines and legal forfeitures were added to it. It may be worthy of notice too, that if the ſpirit of patriotiſm, in point of private ſubſcription to aſſiſt government, continue the ſame, as it is at preſent, it may be a great aſſiſtance to this accumulating fund in its infancy. The gentlemen of each county would

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be more liberal in their ſubſcriptions, ſince they are certain the money they ſubſcribe is appropriated to purpoſes of a public nature in their own county, viz. That, in the firſt place, of paying bounties to the volunteers for the army; 2dly. That of reducing the rate of aſſeſſment upon each pariſh of the county.

4thly. The ſecretary at war ſhould be obliged annually to ſpecify in writing, to the lord lieutenant, ſheriff and grand jury of each county, what is the proportion of men, they are to afford for the ſervice of the enſuing year. This he can eaſily determine, from the preceding year's account, given in at the quarter ſeſſions, of the number of men fit to carry arms in each county. This method would give ſufficient time to the gentlemen of the county, to exert all their perſonal influence and intereſt, in procuring for his Majeſty's ſervice the ableſt and beſt bodied recruits. It is their intereſt ſo to do, becauſe the

greater

greater facility there is in procuring men, the leſs bounty is drawn from the accumulating fund. It is abſolutely neceſſary, that the interval of a twelvemonth ſhould be allowed between the draughts of the recruits. The gentlemen of each county having ſo long time to conſider of it, will certainly procure better men, than if the term of demand were ſhortened. In every county there are men enough to ſupply the army, was a proper and judicious ſelection of them made; this is never likely to be better performed than by the plan here ſuggeſted. To conſider this ſubject therefore in the proper manner it ought to be, I ſhall proceed to treat of it in the following manner, 1ſt. State the public and private inconveniences of the preſent method of recruiting the army; 2dly. Contraſt to it the advantages of the abovementioned ſcheme.

The firſt circumſtance that preſents itſelf to our conſideration, in ſtating the public diſadvan-

tages of the preſent method of recruiting the Britiſh army, is the uncertainty of the returns of men from the officers upon that ſervice to the ſecretary at war. Thus, according to the preſent method, the exigencies of the ſtate can never be provided for in that regular manner they ought to be. It will always be the caſe, and may it ever remain ſo, that the inhabitants of Great Britain will reaſon freely concerning the propriety or impropriety of the meaſures purſued by their governors. If they approve of them (in the language of addreſs), they will ſupport them with their lives and fortunes. If they diſapprove, government will find great difficulty in recruiting the army. From the number of news papers now circulating in every ale houſe of Great Britain, the common people in general form their political opinions from the repreſentation of public affairs, given in the republican papers now diſſeminated ſo univerſally, over every part of this kingdom. This obſervation

vation is well verified in the beginning of this American war, when government found ſo much difficulty in recruiting the old eſtabliſhment of the army, that they were obliged to hire troops from Germany, and Lord Barrington, from the abſolute neceſſity of the ſervice, was compelled to add twelve new regiments to the old eſtabliſhment. Commiſſions were granted to the officers on condition of their raiſing a certain quota of men, and the high bounties given were the only inducement, that could have brought ſo many men to liſt at that time. From the particulars mentioned above, it may be juſtly inferred, that the public ſervice would be carried on more expeditely and uniformly, by obliging each pariſh to turn out a certain number of men according to the exigency of the ſtate.

It may be mentioned too as a private inconvenience of the preſent mode of enliſting men, that no attention is paid to this circumſtance, whether

whether or not a man has a large family, or whether he is a manufacturer, the loſs of whom is a detriment to trade. I am confident, that a conſiderable ſaving will take place upon the plan here propoſed to many pariſhes in this kingdom, viz. By preventing thoſe men who have large families from leaving them. All theſe circumſtances prove, that it is bad policy in any commercial ſtate, to allow an indiſcriminate kidnapping of men for its military ſervice, when certainly better men can be procured from the deliberate choice of the gentlemen of each county.

It may be proper to recapitulate the advantages of the ſcheme here propoſed.

1ſt. According to it, the returns of men to the ſecretary at war would be regular and certain, ſince the demand on each pariſh for recruits

cruits would be proportionate to the exigency of the ſtate.

2dly. By this plan of collecting money by way of brief in each church, and from houſe to houſe twice in each quarter, and by aſſeſſment on each pariſh, a fund is hereby ſuggeſted, that will, in time, ſave to government the preſent bounties of the recruiting ſervice. It will likewiſe enable a number of officers, ſergeants and common men to join their reſpective regiments, who are at preſent employed upon that ſervice.

3dly. It would likewiſe be a conſiderable ſaving to government, was each pariſh obliged by act of parliament, to grant a penſion after a certain number of years ſervice to thoſe ſoldiers, who went to ſerve for them in the army. The rate of the penſion ſhould increaſe according to the number of years they have ſerved. This would be but a ſmall additional tax upon each pariſh,

but a large ſaving to government, ſince it would ſave all the money granted by parliament for the ſupport of Chelſea Hoſpital. It would likewiſe be an inducement to the men, not to claim the benefit of the late act of parliament, which allows them their diſcharge at the end of three years, but to continue in the ſervice until they are entitled to the penſion. This method of granting penſions to the old ſoldiers would likewiſe leſſen the demands upon the counties for recruits.

Laſtly. There is one circumſtance, which recommends ſtrongly the plan here propoſed, that the demand for men falls ſo lightly upon the different pariſhes, as not to be felt as a grievance. Whereas in the late mode of raiſing men in Scotland for the new levies, more particularly in the Highlands, ſome diſtricts were almoſt depopulated, and many of the beſt manufacturers of the Weſt of Scotland ſwept away

to

to America, where one day or other, they will eſtabliſh thoſe very manufactures, they uſed to export to that country. When the common people of England can earn a ſhilling, 1s. 6d. or 2s. per day by labour, it is ridiculous to ſuppoſe, they will prefer ſtarving upon five pence, which is the neat pay of a common ſoldier. The high price of labour therefore paid of late by the farmers and maſter manufacturers to their workmen, is certainly one reaſon, why the recruiting ſervice has not ſucceeded ſo well in England, as it uſed to do. Though many have manifeſted a laudable and public ſpirit in regard to home defence, yet they are not at all inclined to hazard their lives abroad. This averſion to ſerving in the army abroad is growing ſtronger and ſtronger every day among the common people of this country. Government muſt therefore adopt ſome plan ſimilar to the one here propoſed, which will awaken the people from the lethargy they have fallen into of late.

When

When our natural enemies upon the continent of Europe have ſuch immenſe ſtanding armies, and are at the ſame time equal, if not ſuperior to us by ſea, in number of ſhips and men, it is ſurely the height of folly and madneſs, not to put our army upon an equal reſpectable footing. Without we do it ſoon, we may be ſtript of moſt of our foreign ſettlements, as we have loſt ſeveral valuable ſugar iſlands already. All theſe loſſes are owing to the preſent defective plan of recruiting the army. So far from government being able to ſend a ſufficient number of men to garriſon our ſugar iſlands, they had not even men enough for the American ſervice. Thus, the hands of government muſt always be tied up in regard to military enterpriſe, as long as the preſent mode of recruiting the army continues in force. Until it is altered, we can ſtrike no blow to advantage upon the commencement of a war, nor can we parry one effectually when aimed at us. May the experience we have

gained

gained in this American conteſt, teach us to adopt ſuch plans, as will bring the whole ſtrength of this empire to bear effectually upon our natural enemies. Procraſtination in military operations muſt be the ruin of any country, when put to ſuch immenſe expence as Great Britain is at preſent, in the maintenance of fleets and armies in diſtant parts of the globe.

It is ſuperfluous to point out any more, the many public advantages that would reſult from the plan here ſuggeſted, if properly enforced by act of parliament. France and Spain are too ſenſible of the defect of our ſervice, in regard to the idea of raiſing men expeditiouſly as volunteers. They know, therefore, it muſt require ſome conſiderable time, before the Britiſh army is ſo recruited and diſciplined, as to oppoſe their veteran troops in the field. Beſides, the more the above powers increaſe in maritime ſtrength, it becomes every day more neceſſary, that Great

Britain ſhould attend to the moſt effectual and moſt regular means of keeping up a reſpectable ſtanding force for her defence, both at home and abroad. Though the ſcheme propoſed in this tract is compulſatory in regard to each county of Great Britain and Ireland, however, an increaſing fund is pointed out, which will call forth more volunteers to offer their ſervices in the army, than ever this country will have occaſion for, during war or peace.

THOUGHTS

THOUGHTS

UPON THE PRESENT METHOD OF

IMPRESS for the SEA SERVICE.

THE preſent method of impreſs for the ſea ſervice may admit of great improvements in point of enforcement and regularity. If the board of admiralty wiſh to man the navy expeditely, they ſhould ſpecify in the gazette the number of ſeamen and landmen wanted for government ſervice; 2dly. They ſhould likewiſe lay a ſtrict embargo upon all the ports

ports of Great Britain until the demands of government for ſeamen are ſatisfied.

This method would oblige the merchants and maſters of ſhips in every port of Great Britain, to aſſiſt government as much as poſſible in procuring men both by bounties and their own perſonal influence, becauſe the embargo upon their trade wont be taken off until the number of men ſpecified in the gazette is procured. According to the preſent method of impreſs the ports are opened, the maſters of ſhips are at liberty to go to ſea, if their ſhips crews can elude the vigilance of the preſs gangs. But if they were ſhut during the impreſs for government ſervice, the ſeamen would be under the neceſſity, from want of bread, to enter on board of the men of war. When the number of ſeamen ſpecified in the gazette is obtained, all impreſs ſhould ceaſe, and the public promiſe of government ſhould be kept ſacred, that no impreſs ſhall take

place

place again until proper notice is given of it in the public gazette. It is evident this method of manning the navy would cauſe much leſs ſtagnation in trade than the one now in uſe. According to the preſent method of impreſſing ſeamen the merchants have no intereſt in aſſiſting Government, ſince the impreſs never ceaſes during the continuance of the war. Whereas, by the preſent propoſal of ſpecifying in the gazette the number of ſeamen wanted for manning the navy, every conſiderable ſea port in Great Britain and Ireland, ſenſible of the conſequences of an embargo upon their ſhipping, would ſoon know the exact quota of men they ought to contribute, when the demand is made from government. The ſociety of watermen in the port of London is a caſe in point, who upon the eve of every war ſend out five hundred or a thouſand men for the uſe of the navy.

To man the navy quickly, the impreſs ſhould be general all over the kingdom. The conſtables of each hundred ſhould be obliged to examine that there are no ſeamen ſkulking about in their reſpective diſtricts. When there is a hot preſs upon the maritime parts of the kingdom, the ſeamen always retire into the country, thinking to conceal themſelves. It is this idea of concealment therefore, that prevents them from entering into the King's ſervice. But was this removed, they would find no aſylum, and would find it their intereſt to enter on board the men of war as ſoon as poſſible. The preſs ſhould not be local and confined to the ſea ports and coaſt, but general all over the kingdom. The preſent method of that ſervice is attended with the following inconveniences. 1ſt. To the merchant, from the ſtagnation it puts to trade. 2dly. To the ſeaman, becauſe from the idea of concealment, he flies to the country, and is thrown out of employment. 3dly. To government, becauſe

becauſe they dont man their ſhips near ſo quick as they would do, were they to ſpecify to the merchants the number of men wanted for public ſervice, and extend the preſs to the internal parts of the kingdom, as well as the ſea coaſt. This might be eaſily done by making it a pecuniary penalty to any houſe holder, inn keeper or maſter of a public houſe to harbour a ſeaman knowingly, without giving information to a neighbouring juſtice of the peace, or to the conſtables of the hundred. Upon annexing a penalty to the default, there ſhould likewiſe be a more conſiderable reward for information than the preſent.

F I N I S.

POSTSCRIPT,

CONTAINING

A PLAN FOR TAXING THE PROFESSION OF A JEWELLER AND PAWNBROKER, THE MONEY ARISING FROM WHICH SHOULD BE APPROPRIATED TO INCREASE THE ASSOCIATION FUNDS FOR PAYING BOUNTIES TO RECRUITS, IN THE DIFFERENT COUNTIES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

THERE being ſome danger, that the ſcheme here propoſed for recruiting the Britiſh army, may be objected to by the landed intereſt of this kingdom, under the ſuppoſition, that the aſſeſſment on each pariſh is to be regarded as a laſting and permanent addition

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to the preſent land tax—I proceed to obviate this idea.

It is agreed upon all hands, that the beſt manner of ſupplying the Britiſh army with recruits, is to oblige each county to afford a proportional quota of men. It is likewiſe agreed upon all hands, that to ſoften the doctrine of compulſion by ballot, an aſſociation fund is required in each county to obtain a ſufficient number of ſubſtitutes, for thoſe men on whom the chances of the ballot would otherwiſe fall. The next conſideration is how to ſupply theſe aſſociation funds. The landed intereſt maintain, that it would be extremely hard to ſaddle the whole expence upon their backs, as they are already ſufficiently burdened with taxes, and as the chances of the ballot in each county, are as likely to fall upon perſons of monied property, as upon them. To anſwer this juſt objection upon the part of the landed intereſt, the monied intereſt ſhould meet them

them half way, in fixing upon ſome principle of finance, from which theſe aſſociation funds in the different counties of Great Britain might in part be ſupplied, and which ſhould be deemed their ratio of contribution. This can only be done from ſome new tax, the following ſcheme therefore ſuggeſts ſuch to the monied intereſt of this kingdom, as will be ſufficient to induce the gentlemen of landed property, to conſent to the propoſed aſſeſſment in each pariſh. From ſuch a joint contribution, both the landed and monied intereſt will in the courſe of a few years ſee the aſſociation funds increaſing in ſuch a proportion, as to be ſufficient to ſupply the army with recruits, and have an annual overplus to reduce the aſſeſſment upon the different pariſhes. Upon a full inveſtigation of the matter, there will be no room for any jealouſy on the part of the landed intereſt to imagine, that the monied intereſt will not meet them half way in contributing to the aſſociation funds.

The

The following is the ſtate of particulars to perſuade both parties to adopt the above plan for recruiting the army.

1. That the money now appropriated for the purpoſe of maintaining the preſent recruiting eſtabliſhment, ſhould, for ſome years to come, be divided among the aſſociation funds of the different counties of Great Britain, in a ratio proportionate to the number of men fit to carry arms in each. This only to take place until government know for certain, what ſum of money may be collected from the following plan for laying a Tax upon jewellers and pawnbrokers: The original ideas of which were ſuggeſted to the author, by Mr. CONSTANTINE TEULINGS, jeweller, No. 15, *Charing Croſs*, *London*.

PLAN

PLAN *for laying a* TAX *upon* PAWNBROKERS.

ANY profeſſion where the profits are too great, and are at the ſame time an impoſition upon the public, ſhould be an object of public taxation. It is but juſt, that the public ſhould appropriate to its own uſe, part of thoſe exorbitant profits levied upon it. Though many profeſſions in this point of view, are at preſent worthy of the notice of government, however, that of a pawnbroker ſeems to be a more proper object of conſideration than any other. Many public advantages would reſult to the ſtate, from putting this claſs of men under proper reſtrictions.

1ſt. As it would point out to government a new fund of taxation; 2dly. As it would put an end to thoſe robberies and burglaries ſo frequent about London.

The political and commercial wiſdom of the Dutch is evident, in making the profeſſion of a pawnbroker an object of taxation. In the ſeven Provinces of Holland, it is the cuſtom to have only a certain number, who can exerciſe this profeſſion and who pay each of them an annual ſum to the ſtate, for this excluſive monopoly. The profeſſion among them bears the name of the bank of lending or truſt. Individuals in Holland farm the profits of this profeſſion, ſo that ſix months before the expiration of any contract, there is public notice given by the common crier in the particular diſtrict, and in the public gazettes, that upon ſuch a day will be let by public auction, for three, five, or ſeven years, the profits of the pawnbrokers buſineſs, limited to ſuch a diſtrict. The higheſt bidder depoſits immediately one half year's payment of his contract with the States of Holland, and gives ſecurity for the annual payment during the term of his contract. Thus, the Dutch from a prudent

dent foreſight, have converted a particular profeſſion into a public bleſſing, which in England is a nurſery for all kind of villany.

The profeſſion of a pawnbroker is certainly a more proper object of taxation to government, than many other things they have taxed of late. A large ſum of money might be raiſed annually, if the preceding method of the Dutch in regard to pawnbrokers were extended to every part of Great Britain. In this method of raiſing money, government having the example of the Dutch before them, do not purſue an uncertainty as they do ſometimes, when new taxes turn out in reality, only one half of what they appeared to be in the cabinet. The mode of levying the tax ſhould be taken *mutatis mutandis*, (conſidering the different conſtitutions of the two countries) from the Dutch, in regard to the diviſion of diſtricts, to which the pawnbrokers are to be limited, and not allowed to interfere with one anothers

anothers trade. It may be worthy of notice too, that particular attention ſhould be paid by government, for two or three years to get information, what are the exact profits of the pawnbrokers buſineſs in each diſtrict.

I proceed to enumerate the public advantages of government's laying a tax upon pawnbrokers, and limiting the number of them who are immediately employed in that way of buſineſs.

1ſt. The tax to be levied upon ſo uſurious a profeſſion, would ſave laying a tax upon one more honeſt.

2dly. By limiting the number of people, who actually are employed in this profeſſion, and having a recognizance as mentioned above for their honeſty; the public may be aſſured, that robbers and houſebreakers will be excluded from any future market for the produce of their profeſſion,

feſſion, ſince information concerning ſtolen goods by means of hand bills, will paſs ſpeedily from one pawnbroker to another, in all the different parts of the kingdom.

The ſcheme here propoſed will therefore unkennel all that banditti, who receive ſtolen goods and inhabit the purlieus of St. Giles's, Hounſditch, and Hedge Lane, which is more than Sir John Fielding has hitherto done, with all his light infantry. Thus, as far as human policy can provide againſt private villany, government would be enabled, by limiting the number of pawnbrokers, to knock up the trade of receiving ſtolen goods. The conſequences of which are ſo evident, they require no further comment. In ſuch a ſcheme as the one here propoſed, it is only incumbent on the original propoſer to ſuggeſt to government the general ideas and outlines of it. The act of reducing it into prac-

tice muſt be the reſult of their own wiſdom and diſcretion.

PLAN *for laying an additional* TAX *upon* JEWELLERS, GOLDSMITHS *and* SILVERSMITHS, *and* REFINERS *of* GOLD *or* SILVER.

1ſt. THAT a tax of five guineas per annum ſhould be laid upon all maſter jewellers, goldſmiths, ſilverſmiths, and refiners of gold or ſilver, who have ſerved a regular apprenticeſhip, either at home or abroad, to their reſpective profeſſions.

2dly. That every perſon, who, from the date of this act of parliament, deals in articles now deemed as belonging to either of the above profeſſions, and who has not ſerved a regular apprenticeſhip to ſuch profeſſion, or profeſſions, ſhall be ſubject to a tax of fifteen guineas per annum.

3dly.

3dly. That every perſon who now deals in ſuch articles ſhall, during his life, pay only a tax of ten guineas per annum.

4thly. That in imitation of the late method adopted by act of parliament, in regard to dealers in foreign and ſpirituous liquors, ſo every jeweller, goldſmith, &c. who are ſubject to the tax of five guineas per annum, ſhall ſpecify in large letters each over his ſhop door, that he is either a jeweller, goldſmith, &c. &c. &c. In like manner, they who are ſubject to the tax of ten or fifteen guineas per annum ſhall ſpecify, that they are dealers in ſuch and ſuch enumerated articles.

It is extremely juſt and proper, that they who have ſerved, or they who have not ſerved a regular apprenticeſhip, ſhould be taxed at the above ſpecified rates. Though upon the one hand, the jewellers, goldſmiths, &c. &c. according

cording to the preſent propoſal, will have an additional tax of three guineas laid upon them, however, upon the other hand, they will have an additional increaſe of buſineſs, from a triplicate tax being laid upon the dealers in ſuch and ſuch enumerated articles. In any profeſſion that requires a regular courſe of apprenticeſhip it is extremely hard, that other people ſhould be allowed to run away with the profits to be gained in ſuch profeſſion. The above tax therefore of ten or fifteen guineas upon them who are dealers in ſuch and ſuch enumerated articles, cannot in juſtice be deemed too much or exorbitant.

5thly. It is always the caſe, that burglaries are committed where the moſt ready money or plate is to be obtained. This plate the houſe-breakers and thieves melt down and diſpoſe of it in lump, at a goldſmith or ſilverſmith's ſhop. To prevent ſuch for the future, it ſhould be enacted by parliament, that when any perſon has

has gold or ſilver to melt down, he ſhall apply to a proper jeweller, goldſmith, or ſilverſmith, &c. who, when it is melted down, ſhall ſtamp his mark and place of abode upon the lump, together with the mark of the aſſay office.

6thly. That every jeweller, goldſmith, ſilverſmith, &c. ſhall have in his cuſtody a table of all the licenſed ſtamps in Great Britain, which ſhould be kept in his ſhop, ſo as immediately to detect any counterfeit.

7thly. That the counterfeiting ſuch ſtamps ſhall be felony without benefit of clergy.

8thly. That all melted gold or ſilver in lump, found in the cuſtody of any perſon without the proper ſtamps, ſhall be forfeited for the benefit of the informer, and the owner over and above ſhall be liable to the penalty of £100. Thus, if no gold or ſilver in lump but what bears the

proper government ſtamps, was allowed to be purchaſed at any ſhop, houſebreakers and thieves would find no mart for their plunder, ſince they muſt be certain of being found out by means of police hand bills, which every pawnbroker, jeweller, &c. &c. &c. ſhould be obliged to take in. The regular demand that would be thus eſtabliſhed for theſe hand bills, would be ſufficient encouragement to any printer to ſet agoing a preſs for this purpoſe.

9thly. That when bullion of gold or ſilver is imported from foreign countries, a regular depoſit of ſuch ſhould be made in the hands of government officers, until it is either coined in the mint, or ſtamped by a goldſmith, &c. &c. or exported again.

10thly. That the maſter of every ſhip, who tranſports knowingly to any foreign country, from any port of Great Britain, gold or ſilver in

in lump, without the proper ſtamp and a permit from the cuſtom houſe, ſhall be ſubject to ſuch and ſuch pains and penalties. That every maſter of a ſhip may *ipſo facto* ſeize and detain any gold or ſilver in lump, offered for exportation to any foreign part, without the proper ſtamps, until it is either depoſited in the cuſtom houſe, or condemned for his benefit according to the eighth article of this plan.

The 11th and laſt general article in regard to pawnbrokers, jewellers, goldſmiths, &c. &c.

That no money ſhall be given for any plate above the value of twenty ſhillings pledged or to be ſold, until three days after the depoſit of ſuch; the pawnbroker, jeweller, goldſmith, &c. &c. granting his receipt therefore. Likewiſe, that no jeweller, goldſmith, or ſilverſmith, &c. &c. ſhall affix his ſtamp to any plate, rings, &c. &c. but what are ſtandard value and weight, as

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the preſent method of compounding and adulterating metals has an evident tendency to teach men how to vitiate the current coin of the realm.

As the particulars of the above plans for raiſing money, by a tax upon pawnbrokers and jewellers, were only introduced in this poſtſcript, to point out a fund to the monied intereſt of this country, that would induce the landed intereſt to meet them half way in the adoption of the abovementioned ſcheme for recruiting the army; I now proceed therefore to the ſecond and laſt head of this poſtſcript, viz. That from the immediate appropriation of the money now expended in the recruiting ſervice, until the ſums ariſing from the plans for taxing pawnbrokers and jewellers can be properly aſcertained — From the ſums that might be raiſed by briefs, private ſubſcriptions and legal forfeitures — From the proportional contribution of the landed intereſt by aſſeſſment on each pariſh, there are *data* pointed

pointed out, ſufficient to remove any jealouſy now ſubſiſting between the landed intereſt and monied intereſt of this country. It is here proved, that conſiſtent with their mutual intereſts, they may join hands in adopting a ſcheme calculated to recruit the Britiſh army in a more perfect and effectual manner, than the one now in uſe, and at the ſame time more analogous to the genuine ideas of Britiſh liberty.

The political and military INFERENCES *from the Adoption of this Scheme for Recruiting the Army, are as follow.*

1ſt. By placing the management of the recruiting ſervice in the hands of the lord lieutenant, ſheriff, grand jury, and gentlemen of each county, acting in the capacity of juſtices, it will be eſtabliſhed as a point of public honour and emulation, from one county to another in Great Britain and Ireland, which ſhall ſupply the Britiſh army with the ableſt and beſt-bodied recruits.

2dly. It will remove the baneful conſequences of the preſent impreſs act, which puts it in the power of the petty tyrants of each borough or diſtrict, to commit acts of oppreſſion, unheard of in the moſt abſolute form of government, and inconſiſtent with the fundamental ideas of Britiſh liberty.

3dly. It will prevent that influx of *new rank* into the Britiſh army, which has of late taken place, ſo much to the diſſatisfaction of the honoured veterans of that ſervice, by ſuperſeding entirely the neceſſity of raiſing new corps. In doing which, ſuch high bounties have been given, as will in the long run leave the ſtandards of the old regiments deſerted, and ruin the recruiting ſervice ſo much in general, that the riches of Crœſus would ſcarce be adequate to the purpoſe of recruiting the army of Great Britain and Ireland.

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The fourth and laſt inference is the moſt important of all. That in calling forth the different counties of Great Britain and Ireland, to afford for the uſe of the army, a quota of men proportionate to the number fit to carry arms in each, we are much more likely to remove thoſe fooliſh national ideas and prejudices, which at preſent ſow the ſeeds of diſunion in the Britiſh empire. The plan ſuggeſted in this tract for recruiting the Britiſh army, is founded upon the ſame principles as that of parliamentary repreſentation, whatever arguments are therefore applicable to the one may *a fortiori* be applied to the other.

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